

Fibrous union is the result in all but the sub-aponeurotic variety, and in the latter, as well as in those subjected to the operative method, bony union is the rule.

He emphasizes the suggestion of Macewen, that the lack of bony union is nearly always dependent upon the overlapping of the aponeurotic fringe.

In the treatment his remarks bear a notable savor of conservatism in that he is inclined to put the operative treatment decidedly in the background, even where antisepsis can be carried out.

We have noticed, here and there, a few minor discrepancies, *e. g.*, the omission of Fig. 101, on page 469: Fig. 236 is referred to as Fig. 237; again on page 545 we see Fig. 266, which evidently should read 296; but these are minor defects, hardly to be avoided, and which do not detract from its practical value.

The work, on the whole, furnishes a clear, distinct and thorough *exposé* of the subject with which it deals and from which the reader can gain such information as may be needed in moulding his course of action.

AUG. SCHACHNER.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1892.

Edited by J. EWING MEARS, M.D., Recorder of the Association. Philadelphia: William J. Dornan. Vol. X., pp.xxii.—280.

This volume sustains the high standard from a scientific standpoint set in previous years by the publications of the Association. The majority of the papers, having already appeared in this Journal, are familiar to the subscribers and require no comment from the reviewer. But the index offers a great deal to interest the student of surgery. The index accompanying this volume is complete for all the published work of the Association from 1883 to 1892 inclusive, and as an indication of the development and advancement of surgery in this country is of great value. In glancing through this tabular statement of the ten years' work one is struck by the changes in the management of

wounds: thus in the earlier volumes Listerism is the topic under discussion: then follows a series of papers on antiseptic surgery, until finally, in the later volumes, asepsis seems to be crowding out the antiseptics. So, too, the changes in abdominal and cranial surgery are marked. It is not until the eighth volume that the appendix appears on the scene, and only two years before, Volume VI, they were still discussing typhlitis and peri-typhlitis. Only five years ago, Volume V, the question was asked, "should laparotomy be done for penetrating gunshot wounds of the abdomen involving the viscera?" while it is only in the last few volumes that one realizes the amount of attention that is now being devoted to the region of the liver and gall bladder.

These volumes are in reality an encyclopædia of surgery of the greatest value, both practically and historically, for the articles are written by men who are fully abreast of the times, each an authority for his section of the country, and are discussed by his peers in surgical acumen and experience.

These volumes are also of interest to those who care for the study of the men who go to make up the surgical history of the country. In this Association are banded together not only the most prominent men of the present, but its roll has borne the names of nearly all the great surgeons of the past decade, and some record of their best work is included in the pages of the Transactions.

SAMUEL LEAY.